Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00303 151122Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 SAJ-01 /079 W
----------151208Z 046595 /23 10
R 150946Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2384
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USNATO BRUSSELS 536

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0303

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, BU
SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT DEAN'S WREATH-LAYING AT DIMITROV'S TOMB

REF: A) STATE 032690; B) SOFIA 0237

1. AT NATO AMBASSADORS MEETING FEB 14, FOLLOWING NEW FACTS EMERGED:

A. CONTRARY TO WHAT HAD BEEN REPORTED REF B, THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR HAD PERSONALLY LAID A WREATH UPON ARRIVAL HERE, AND HE MADE IT UNMISTAKEABLY CLEAR HE HAD NO INTENTION OF ABSENTING HIMSELF WHEN THE DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS LAYS WREATH NEXT TIME.

B. ALSO CONTRARY TO REF B, NEXT TIME THIS MATTER WILL COME UP IS ON DIMITROV'S BIRTHDAY, JUNE 18.

C. ON THAT OCCASION, IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR WILL BE THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AS HE IS NEXT ON THE LIST AFTER THE ALGERIAN AMB WHO MAY LEAVE SOON.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SOFIA 00303 151122Z

2. ITALIAN AMB APOLOGIZED TO HIS COLLEAGUES FOR GETTING NATO INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER. IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY HE MIGHT BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT HE HAD ONLY SOUGHT GUIDANCE FROM HIS GOVT AND DID NOT KNOW HOW MATTER GOT INTO NATO POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

3. BRITISH AMB SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT KIND OF INSTRUC-
TIONS WOULD MAKE MOST SENSE AND ARE ABLE TO SAY SO; OTHERS
FELT THAT SINCE SITUATION IS CHANGING CONSTANTLY, THE MOST
REASONABLE THING WOULD BE TO REQUEST FLEXIBILITY TO SETTLE
MATTER ON THE SPOT. SEVERAL SAID THEY ALREADY HAVE SUCH
INSTRUCTIONS.

4. I MADE AN EFFORT TO APPEAL TO THE TURK NOT TO BREAK
NATO SOLIDARITY IN THIS MATTER, BUT HE WAS ADAMANT, LEAD-
ING HIS COLLEAGUES TO CONCLUDE THAT HE REFLECTED CONSIDERED
POSITION OF HIS GOVT. I THEN ASKED IF HE WOULD BE PRE-
PARED TO MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN ATTENDANCE AT DIMI-
TROV'S BIRTHDAY, WHERE THE FUNCTION IS FOCUSED ON THE
MAN, AND ATTENDANCE ON BULGARIA'S NATIONAL DAY (SEPT 9)
WHEN ATTENDANCE COULD BE MORE PROPERLY INTERPRETED AS
TRIBUTE TO THE NATION RATHER THAN TO DIMITROV THE INDI-
VIDUAL. HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE THIS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

5. GREEK AMB, NOTING THE STIFF-NECKED ATTITUDE OF THE
TURK, THEN SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO "RESERVE HIS POSITION"
ON WHETHER TO GO ALONG WITH THE OTHER. EVERYBODY

AGREED THAT A DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE BETWEEN CEREMONIES
HONORING THE PARTY LEADER DIMITROV, AND CEREMONIES HONOR-
ING THE HOST GOVT; AND ALL EXCEPT THE TURKISH AMB
AGREED (PARA 4 REF A) THAT VISITING VIP'S SHOULD CON-
TINUE TO LAY WREATHS AT THE RESISTANCE MONUMENT.

6. THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION WHETHER BULGARIANS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SOFIA 00303 151122Z

HAD GIVEN EVIDENCE OF TAKING OFFENSE AT ABSENCE OF NATO
AMBASSADORS FROM THESE CEREMONIES. THIS LED TO THE
QUESTION BEING ASKED IRONICALLY WHETHER PERHAPS WE SHOULD
WAIT FOR BULGARIAN PRESSURE TO WHICH WE WOULD THEN YIELD,
RATHER THAN TAKE A REASONABLE STEP BEFORE THE MATTER BE-
COMES AN ISSUE. NOBODY DOUBTED THAT GOB DOES TAKE OFFENSE.
WHETHER IT IS "UNDUE" CANNOT BE DETERMINED AT THIS TIME.

7. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY OFFICIAL-INFORMAL LETTER.
HERZ

CONFIDENTIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, MONUMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SOFIA00303
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770053-0592
Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770240/aaaabjje.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a8384bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 32690, 77 SOFIA 237
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3318091
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTENDANCE AT DEAN\'S WREATH-LAYING AT DIMITROV\'S TOMB
TAGS: PFOR, BU, IT, US, NATO, (DIMITROV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a8384bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009